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Two funerary inscriptions from Roman Tripolitania:

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Abstract :

These two funarary inscriptions were didcovered at Al brahama village in Rejban area in Western Mounain – Tripolitania . The first is Neo- Punic and the second Is latin :

Neo-Punic inscription : It consists of seven lines and the first four lines are legible and their translation cause no problem > But the rest are illegible as a result to damage to the stone.

Latin inscription : It consists of four lines . They are easy to read and translate.

ترجمة الملخص :

نقيشتان جنائزيتان عثر عليهما فى قرية البراهمة فى منطقة الجبل الغربى فى طرابلس الرومانية و تعودان الى العصر الرومانى وأحدهما بونى متأخر و الآخر لاتينى :

النقش البونى المتاخر : يتكون من سبعة أسطر والأربعة الأولى يمكن قراتها وترجمتها بسهولة . أما الأسطر الثلاثة الباقية يصعب قراءتها بسبب ما لحق بحجر النقيشة من أضرار .

النقيشة اللاتنية : وهى تتكون من أربعة أسطر ولاتوجد صعوبة فى قراءتها ا وترجمتها .

الصور الواردة فى هذا المقال هى لمقابر فينيقية- بونية تحت الأرض جرى تدميرها من قبل نابشى القبور الباحثين عن الذهب .

1- Neo-Punic inscription:

This inscribed stone block was found in a tomb discovered by a Libyan in his land beside his house at el-Brahama Village in Rejban (Gable el- Gharbi-Tripolitania). The photos of the two inscriptions were taken by him (fig.1), upon which my subsequent transcription is based. The rectangular block [any dimension known?] bears a carefully incised recessed tabula ansata on its front face. The text comprises seven lines (each line accommodating approximately 9 letters). The first four lines are legible and their reading and translation cause no problem. The lines 5,6,7 are illegible as a result of damage to the surface of the stone.

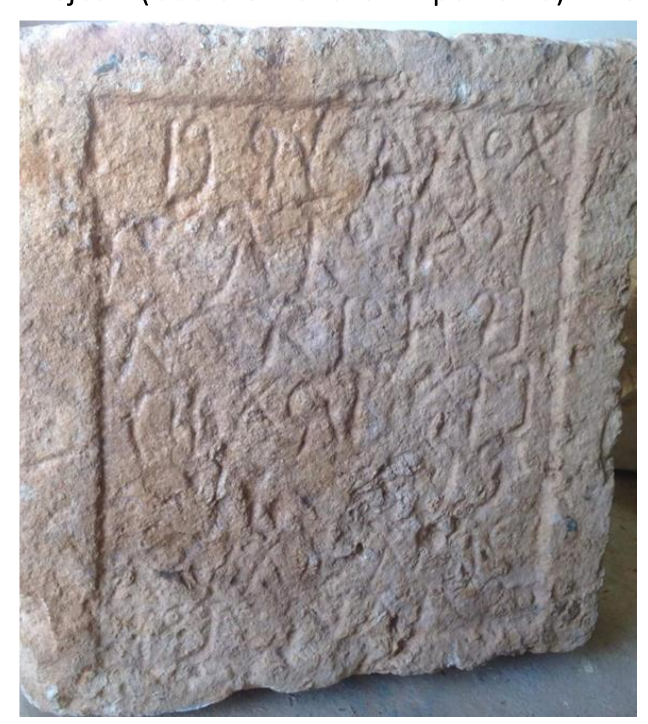
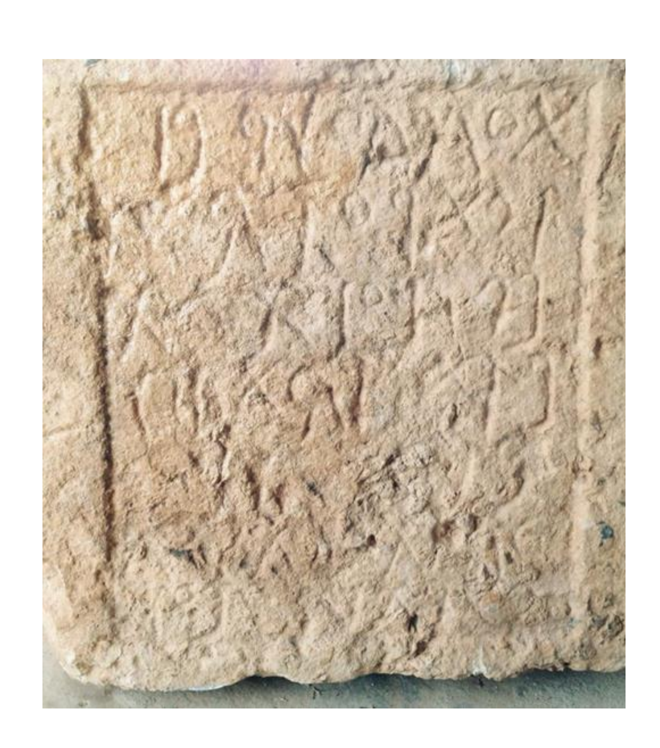


Fig. 1. Neo- Punic inscription:



(fig. 1: Neo-Punic inscription)

Text:

A suggested reading is a follow (uncertain letters are under dotted) :

1- m ʿ nsbt ʿ s d b n
2- n ym r ʿ n hʿ s
3- k y n b ʿ n≥ l≥
4- b n m w l b w h m hn
5- bn … illegible ..
6- L bn≥m h n w a . . illegible ..
7- Illegible ….

Translation:

1- Stele of Aside son of
2- Nymran the AS
3- k yn built for
4- his sons and for his father Hanno
5- son of…illegible …
6- For his sons Hno(?)…a..h ...illegible…
7- …illegible…

Line- by- line commentary:

Line 1-m ʿnsbt = stele which is equivalent to Latin monumentum /memoria, indicating the funerary monument which is mostly the direct object of the sentence (cf. Kerr2010, p.149). It recurs in another Neo-Punic inscription from Wadi -elAmud: IPT 77.1). The word is Ultimately derived from Phoenician MSBT (KAI 6,1. 1;7, II. 1-2, Um el-Awamid) and other phoenician places in North Africa (Maktar : KAI 149.1/2(Npu)Npu) ; KAI 78.4/6(Pu);Drombi N 1 : Jongeling,2008,p.83).

-hʿsd=asido =Libyan name (cf.Jongeling (2008), p.306; PIBB 122;123). It is preceded by the article 'h' in this inscription which indicate its Semitic origin) (S.Antioco N3 : Jongeling (2008) ,p.362) .

2/3- hʿskyn= Libyan name. Also it could be hslkyn . It was written in viriant forms : Slkny ;(Hr. Maktar N 64,31;76 ;Hr Msdedi N 5 ;7)(see Jongleling (2008) ,p.362).

3-Nymrʿn =Nimiran, Libyan name (Wadi el-a Amud N2: Tripol.39; TRE 39; IPT 77.2 (Npu); Jongeling,(2008),p.59).

¾-B ʿ n≥ =" b n a,bny"= 'He built' which recurred in neo-Punic inscription from: Drombi N1(Tunisia)(Jongeling ,2008,p.83) ; Meta mur) N1: Bʿn≥ l≥ = He built for him (Kerr,2010, p.160).Also it recurred in other inscriptions from Roman Tripolitania in different forms: b≥n≥ (Brevilgieri N1: (Alkhdra-Tarhuna(IPT 67.1;Kerr,p.50) ;(El-Amruni N1; Jongeling (2008),p.9) .

3/4-L≥ b n m= l +abnm= for+ his sons: It is attested in different forms 'bn≥m' in texts from Wadi el-Amud(IPT 77.1); bnam(79.6);Jongeling(2008),p.59) . vlybanem='for his sons (Gasr el-Aziz LP 1 :2/3(Npu); IRT893; Kerr, p.139,150).

4-L≥ bw h m =For his father.I t contains a lexeme'a b' in the singular/plura 'parents'(Kerr,210,97;143). It recurred in other inscriptions from Roman Tripolitania: labvnom(Wadi Umm el-AgreemLP1,Wadi Chanafes LP1;Kerr,210,p.97); (Tunisia :a b ˁ n h m (KAI 142 .4 (Npu) .

4- hn = Hano. Punic name (Lepcis Magna: IPT 17; KAI 130. 6(Npu); Levi Della Vida, 12; IRT 12) ;(Algsubat N1: IPT 86. 4) . Jongeling, p.41-42) .

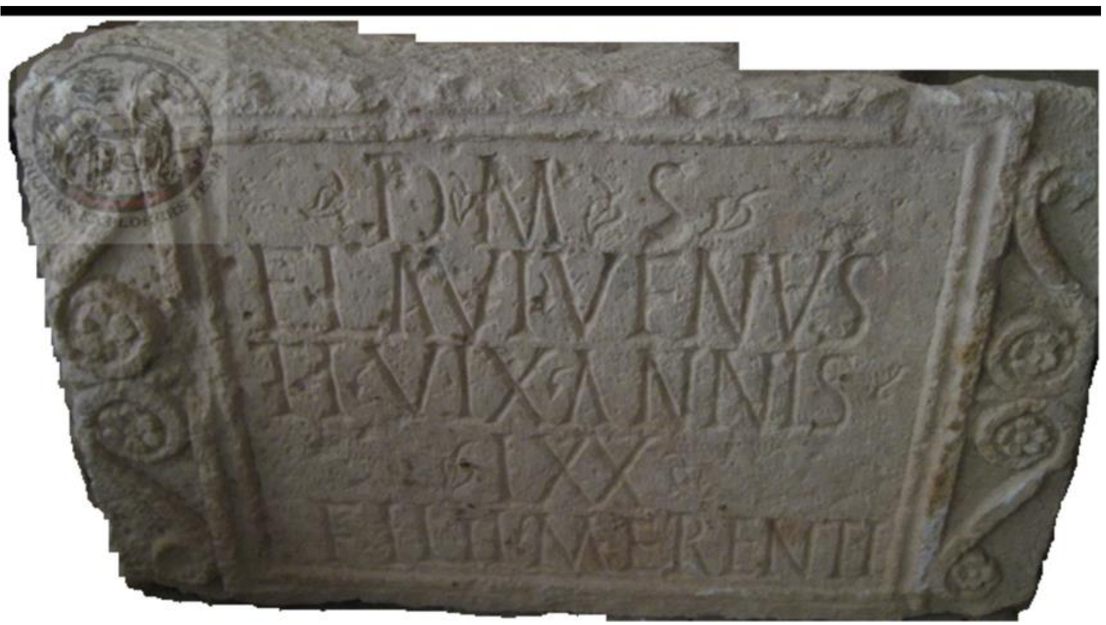
5- For his sons Hano(?) and …Illegible

Lines,6,7 illegible as a result of damage to the stone of the inscription.



(Fig1: The tomb where the Neo-Punic inscription was found by a Libyan resident in the area.)

2- Funerary Latin inscription from Albrahmh Village at el-Rejban in Western Mountain (el-Gable elgharbi) -Tripolitania:



(fig. 2: Funerary Latin inscription on a Tombstone)

Translation:

Sacred to the departed spirits of

Flavius Venustus

Who lived for 70

(His) children (set this Up) to a deserving (parent).

The man who found this inscription mentioned that he discovered it in his digging in the piece of his land beside his home in the same place where he found the Neo-Punic inscription (figr.1). But I think it is from a tomb in the area of the Roman centenarium whose building traces still can be seen in el- Barahma village near city of Rejban (fig. 3).



(fig.3: Roman centenarium in el-Barahma village was built on high place to control the area.



Fig. 4: Symbol of a god on the wall was found with the writing (fig.5)

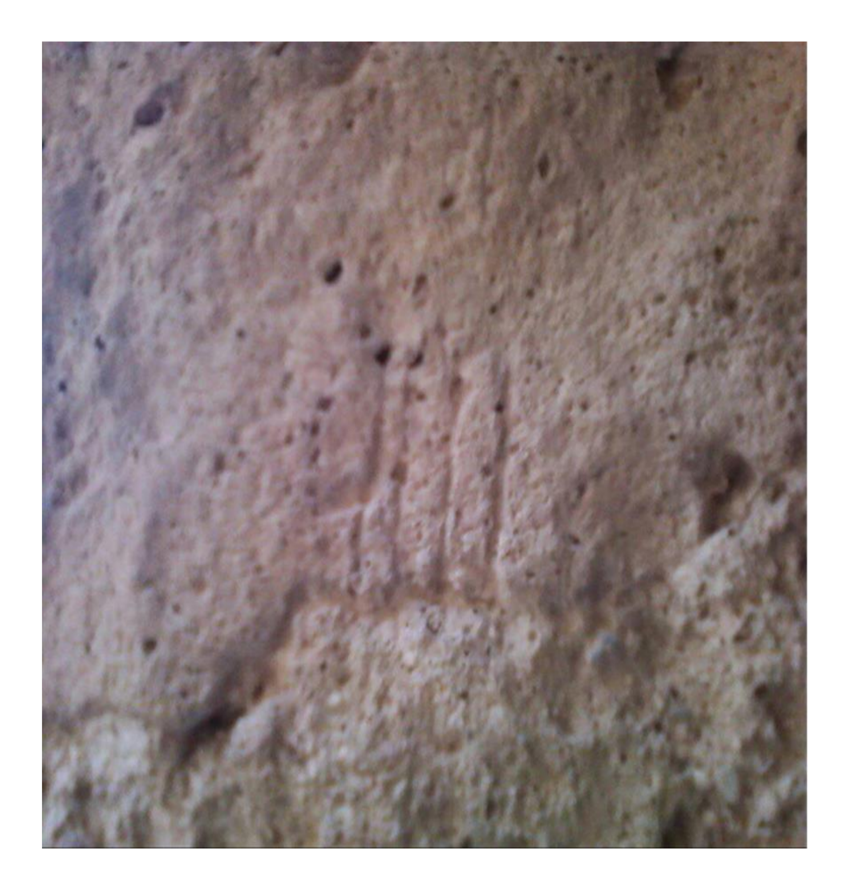
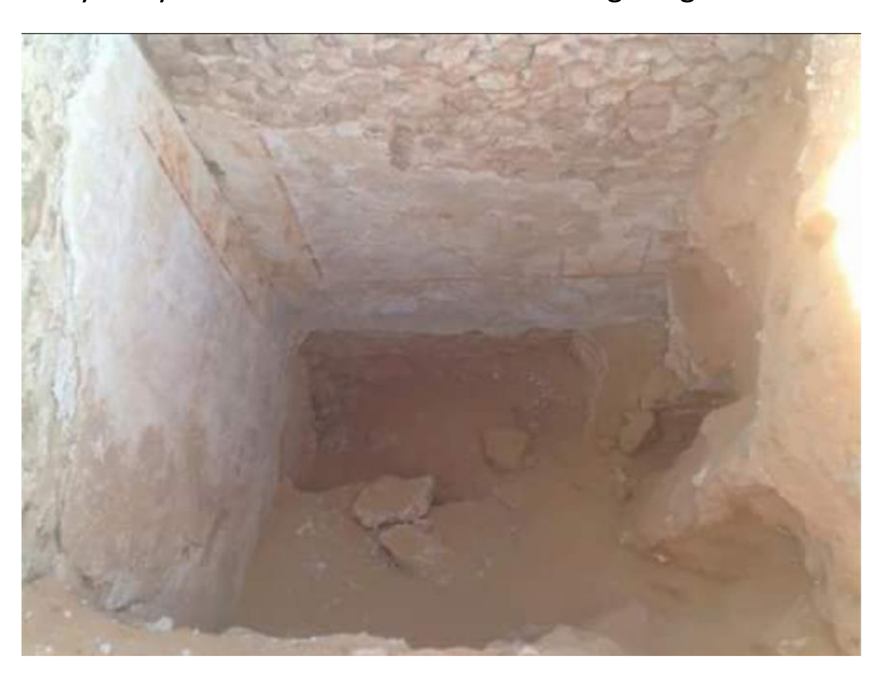


Fig. 5. Graffiti was found with symbol of god (figr.4)

These photos are for Phoenician tombs in Jefara Plain south of Sabratha and I think they were destroyed by tomb thieves who were looking for gold.





(fig. 6 : Phoenician tomb .) with mosaic before destroying by thieves looking for gold . Now the mosaics none exist.



Fig. 7: Frescoes which were on the wall of the tomb (fig.6) before destroying.



fig. 8: This photo for fresco in the tomb(fig.6) was taken before a Shepherd damaged it.



(figr.9: Phoenician Tomb)



(Figr.10: This tomb is near to the tomb(figr.6) where fresco was found)



(Figr.11: Destroyed Phoenician tomb.) I have been told that a Shepherd destroyed these Phoenician tombs in Jefara plain, but I still think it had been done by thieves who were looking for Gold.



(Figr.12) Relief representing a Camel and a man feeding it (from the same area)